

# The Bee Line

**Pineywoods Beekeepers Association**

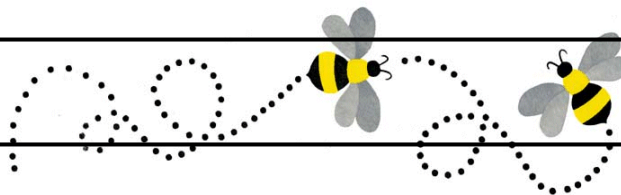
Next meeting December 11, 6:30 pm

Lufkin VFW Post 1836

1800 Ford Chapel Road, Lufkin

<https://www.pineywoodsbeekeepers.org/>

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## December Program

We used to have a festive potluck in December, with PBA providing the meat dish and members providing sides and desserts. This year, the VFW ladies will prepare the food and PBA will pay for it. You may bring a dessert to be served from the kitchen.

We'll have a honey competition – bring a small jar of your best honey. Ricky Davis and Roger Gauthier will present their system for assembling deeps and medium. They've been building a lot of boxes, so I understand they've got this down to an art. (Or a science? We'll see!) Bring a printed recipe that uses honey to swap with others.

## What's Buzzing

**2026 Board** – Thank you to those who have agreed to serve as officers next year!

President – Ricky Davis  
Vice President – Bob Love  
Secretary – Joanie Kochanek  
Treasurer – Mike Hartman  
Training Coordinator – Rachel Payne  
Newsletter Editor – Elizabeth Houston  
Apiary Manager – Roger Gauthier

**Free beekeeping class** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 5:30 pm at Nacogdoches Seventh Day Adventist Church playground April 15<sup>th</sup> – Nov 15<sup>th</sup>. Facebook post by Vasiliy Osadchuck from Ukraine with over 40 years' experience. Theory and hands-on for beginners plus advanced discussions for the pros.

**At-Home Beekeeping Series** presented by the Lawrence Co. Alabama Extension Office. 6:30-7:30pm. Recordings from this series are available **for only two weeks** after each session on the Lawrence County Alabama Extension Office Facebook page. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/bees-pollinators/at-home-beekeeping-series/>

2025 Dates and Topics  
December 30 — No Session

## 2026 Dates and Topics

January 27 — Using Oxalic Acid Effectively

Cameron Jack, University of Florida

February 24 — Treating Newly Split Colonies with Organic Varroacides

Dan Aurell, Auburn University

March 31 — Queen Concrete versus Proxy Measurements

Elizabeth Walsh, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

April 28 — TBD

Esmaeil Amiri, Mississippi State University Extension

May 26 — TBD

Michael Goblirsch, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

June 30 — Queen Management Essentials

Juliana Rangel, Texas A&M University

## Seasonal Tips

Robert Jones

December, like November, should be a time of rest and relaxation because the time for the new bee season comes January 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember early in this month to make arrangements for queens and new colonies. Look at your successes and failures for the past year. Work on repeating the things you were successful at and try to remember the lessons you were taught by the failures you had. You don't want to repeat those. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Comb-Grown Goodness

### Banana Bread

*Joy with Honey* by Doris Mech

1 c unbleached white flour

1 ¼ c whole wheat flour

½ t salt

1 t baking soda

½ c butter

¾ c honey

2 eggs, beaten

1 c mashed ripe banana, about 3

2-3 T hot water

½ c chopped walnuts

In medium bowl, stir together first 4 ingredients. In heavy pan on low heat, melt butter, remove from heat, and stir in honey. Add eggs and bananas and stir vigorously. Stir in about half of the dry ingredients, then half the hot water. Add the rest of the dry ingredients and the rest of the hot water. Stir in nuts. Fill a greased and floured loaf pan and bake at 325 for 70 minutes or until brown and starting to pull away from the edge of the pan. Cool in pan on a rack.